

On page 166, line 23, please delete "facilities".

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 3, 4, 8, and 9 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1, 5, 10, 12, and 15 as follows:

1. A process of producing a coke fuel, said method comprising the steps:
- (a) obtaining a coke precursor material derived from crude oil, and having a volatile organic component; and
 - (b) subjecting said coke precursor material to a thermal cracking process for sufficient time and at sufficient temperature and under sufficient pressure so as to promote the production of sponge coke and to produce a coke product having a volatile combustible material (VCM) present in an amount in the range of from about 13% to about 50% by weight;

wherein said coke product is comprised of sponge coke in an amount in the range of about 40% to 100% by weight.

5. A process according to claim 1 wherein said volatile organic component combustible material in said coke product is in the range of from about 15% to about 30% by weight.

10. A method for producing energy, said method comprising combusting a fuel, said fuel comprising coke, said coke comprising sponge coke in an amount in the range of about 40% to 100% by weight and having volatile combustible materials in an amount in the range from about 13% to about 50% by weight.

12. A method for producing energy according to claim 10 wherein said fuel comprises a mixture of said coke and oil coal, wherein the heat release rate ratio of said coke to said coal in said mixture is greater than about 1:4.

15. A ~~method for producing energy and a method for removing undesirable~~ flue gas components, said method comprising

- (a) injection of conversion reagents with sufficient mixing and sufficient residence time at sufficient temperature to convert

undesirable flue gas components to collectible particulates upstream of a particulate control device (PCD) and

87 (b) collecting said particulates in particulate control device, said particulate control device includes, but is not limited to, a PCD process selected from the group consisting of electrostatic precipitators (dry or wet), filtration, cyclones, and conventional wet scrubbers.

Please add new claims 77-87

77. A process according to claim 2 wherein said sodium levels are reduced to less than about 5 ppm by weight.

78. A process according to claim 1 wherein said coke product is comprised of sponge coke in an amount in the range of about 60% to 100% by weight.

79. A method according to claim 10 wherein said coke has sodium present in an amount less than about 25 ppm by weight.

80. A method according to claim 10 wherein said coke comprises sponge coke in an amount in the range of about 60% to 100% by weight.

81. A coke comprising sponge coke in an amount in the range of about 40% to 100% by weight, said coke having volatile combustible material (VCM) present in an amount in the range of from about 13% to about 50% by weight.

82. A coke according to claim 81 wherein said sponge coke is in an amount of about 60% to 100% by weight.

83. A coke according to claim 81 wherein said volatile combustible material (VCM) is present in an amount in the range of from about 15% to about 30% by weight.